Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Ernakulam we have done an experiment and it was not successful.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—How many years ago was it done?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—About four years ago.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not better to have some better dredger than the present one? At present it is only dredging our Treasury. Will the Government be kind enough to have a dredger which can be of help to the public and the Government?

Auction sale—Karupadanna Market.

283. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) who was the highest bidder in the last Karupadanna market auction;

(2) did not the highest bidder in the public auction deposit 3 months' kist as required by the rules;

(3) whether the Government gave the contract to any other man;

(4) if so, (a) what are the reasons for the same;

(b) whether the original contractor was given information of the change before it was made;

(c) whether he has preferred any complaint against this action of the Government and what, if any, are the orders passed on the same?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(1) Mr. P. K. Moideen.

(2) No. Only one month's kist in advance.

(3) Yes.

(4) (a) It was suspected to be owing to the undue influence exerted by Mr. P. K. Moideen over other bidders at the time of the auction that the bid amount did not rise above Rs. 700. Government therefore rejected his bid and accepted the higher offer of Rs. 750 from another.

(b) It was not considered necessary.

(c) Yes. He was told that nothing could be done to him.

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